

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Wilderness Working Group Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2002

Attendees:

Gene Arnesen	Kris Hjelle	Dave Price	Bob Sherrill
Belle Chesnick	Mel Lloyd	Jane Ross	Harold Snyder
Terry Gray	Celeste Marsh	Bill Schapley	

Greetings and Introductions

Bill Schapley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Working Group Discussions

Bill expressed his hope that tonight's meeting would be the Working Group's last meeting. He is willing to dedicate time to tonight's agenda items, including the upper and lower access roads, the Devils Canyon cabin, and target shooting, and be satisfied that the group has fulfilled its responsibility. Warren Gore, Joe Keys, and Wade Johnson, who were not present, had agenda items up for discussion regarding BS road recommendations, group size, and indicators of change respectively.

Bill felt the group should reach final consensus and forward their recommendations, along with a cover letter, to the Advisory Council with copies to the Working Group members. All present agreed with this.

Jane Ross, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Planning Team Leader, cautioned that, although not present, Warren Gore had stated that at least one more meeting would be required to complete the group's discussions and recommendations.

Jane also pointed out that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wants a final meeting that would utilize a facilitator to assist the group in developing and refining its goals and objectives, as well as a brief mission statement for presenting to the Advisory Council. Jane added that all four of the Working Groups are planning to follow this procedure in order to develop a consistently formatted document.

The group did agree to this with conditions that 1) the group's original draft recommendations be presented to the Advisory Council, along with the formatted and condensed document, and 2) Jane drafts the group's summary statement ahead of time and distributes it to the Working Group members via e-mail. Jane agreed to these requests, and the final, facilitated meeting was set for October 29, 2002, at 6:00 p.m., in the BLM office conference room.

Bill mentioned that he plans to call Warren to obtain a clarification on remaining issues with BS road recommendations. The last report, as Bill understood it, was that BLM is not in full agreement with Warren's recommendations, and these issues need to be resolved.

Dave Price asked the group for clarification on over-flight recommendations before presenting them to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Dave added that neither the National Park Service nor BLM has control over these over-flight regulations. After extensive discussion, the group agreed to recommend that all over flights be prohibited, to the extent possible by law, over the Wilderness area. No BLM permits should be issued to anyone, commercial or private.

Kris Hjelle handed out a copy of her recommendations on both the upper and lower access roads. The group reviewed the document and offered various suggestions for refining the recommendations regarding dispersed camping sites, a formal trailhead at Mee Canyon with parking, and the lower road's maintenance.

On behalf of Joe Keys, who was not present, Bill addressed group size, which Joe felt should be limited to no more than 25 individuals.

Terry Gray discussed options for the Will Minor cabin located in Devils Canyon. Extensive discussion ensued on the cabin's future. Stated options are to 1) leave as is, 2) leave as is and place on the historic registry, 3) repair cabin and maintain, 4) repair and maintain the cabin using period materials and place on the historic registry, 5) remove the stove, or 6) tear the cabin down. Bill also suggested moving the cabin from its original site to a new site, perhaps adjacent to a proposed interagency visitors' center and then restoring the structure. Jane cautioned the group that the structure may, or may not, be eligible for historic status and could be torn down by the BLM altogether because of safety issues. Suggestions ranged from fencing around the structure and adding interpretive signage, to blocking access by locking the cabin's door. The group decided to explore partnerships with Friends Groups that could adopt and maintain the cabin in its current condition. Meanwhile, the BLM will record and qualify the cabin for historic registry eligibility. Terry plans to draft the group's recommendations.

Bob Sherrill brought several items to the table. Bob was pleased to report that he had heard that possession of the Horsethief road might be returning to Mesa County. If the BLM wants access to the area beyond Pollock Canyon Estates, Bob recommends that an agreement be executed and a practical security device be installed on the existing gate entering the subdivision. Bob remains concerned with intentional trespass issues. While he is happy with BLM's efforts in adding improved signage, Bob expressed a desire to see a decision made on the parking lot's purpose and future use. Bob indicated that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) owns the land, but the Division of Wildlife (DOW) administers it for that Bureau. The Working Group agreed that a sign discouraging Wilderness access from Pollock Bench, prior to ever reaching the area, is a good idea. Bob's final issue focused on target shooting in the Wilderness area,

specifically near developed areas. While the group agreed that hunting in the Wilderness area is acceptable, target shooting is not. The group agreed to make a recommendation to the Advisory Council that target shooting not be allowed in the Pollock Bench area, and for future planning the entire NCA, should the activity become a problem in other areas. Bob agreed to draft these recommendations on behalf of the group.

The next and final Working Group meeting, with a facilitator present, is scheduled for October 29, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. in the BLM conference room. No other Wilderness Working Group meetings are scheduled until this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.